

# **Wisconsin Way Forward**

## **2017 Policy Messaging**



### Fairness: Build an Economy that Works for Everyone



#### **Secure equal pay protections, greater workplace safety, and a fair living wage.**

- Ensure fair wages for women, veterans, and minorities by restoring equal pay protections.
- Improve workplace safety protections and working conditions to reduce injuries and increase productivity.
- Restore collective bargaining rights so workers can join together to negotiate wages, benefits, and working conditions.
- Raise the minimum wage to a living wage so Wisconsin workers receive the pay that they deserve.

#### **Support small businesses, manufacturers, and farmers that drive Wisconsin's economy and create jobs.**

- Enhance access to capital and community development funding to spur job creation throughout Wisconsin.
- Foster a business environment that allows Wisconsin entrepreneurs to turn their dreams of starting a business into a reality.
- Improve technology development by strengthening partnerships between investors, schools, colleges, and the business community.
  - Embrace innovation and support life-saving medical research.
  - Preserve family farms by supporting new farmers, streamlining the process for retiring farmers to pass on their land, and creating new opportunities for all Wisconsin residents to purchase locally grown food.
  - Expand apprenticeship opportunities and connect businesses and manufacturers to the skilled workforce they need to succeed.

### **Restore tax fairness, end corporate giveaways that outsource jobs, and prevent foreign entities from buying up Wisconsin's land.**

- Ensure Wisconsin businesses get the first shot at state contracts and building projects, and prioritize Wisconsin workers by ending state subsidies to businesses that eliminate or outsource jobs.
- Cut taxes for the middle class, working families, and seniors.
- Reform our rigged tax system and make it work for everyone.
- Ensure tax dollars are spent responsibly, not on special interest giveaways that waste our tax dollars.
- Keep farm ownership in Wisconsin and prevent land grabs by foreign citizens or countries.

### **Rebuild a fair and vibrant economy through a strong transportation and high-speed technology infrastructure.**

- Invest in local road and highway improvement projects to improve safety, lower debt, and reduce costs to Wisconsin drivers associated with traffic delays, crashes, and vehicle repairs.
- Modernize our ports and airports, enhance Wisconsin's passenger and commercial rail network, and improve access to affordable transit options.
- Support a sustainable, long-term transportation funding solution that ensures investments in infrastructure improvement projects across Wisconsin.
- Expand access to high-speed broadband to all Wisconsin communities.

### **Opportunity: Invest in Our Future and Empower Citizens in Our Democracy**



**Uphold Wisconsin's tradition of quality public education and ensure every student has the opportunity to attend a school that meets high standards.**

- Prioritize funding for public schools over tax breaks to millionaires.
- Expand successful early childhood programs, increase access to four-year-old kindergarten, and establish in-school wraparound services.
- Boost student success by restoring the funding cut from public schools.
- Hold all schools receiving taxpayer funding to the same high education standards and prevent property tax funding from being used to subsidize private voucher schools.

**Help students and workers stay in Wisconsin by preparing everyone to succeed in a changing economy without a lifetime of debt.**

- Enable borrowers to refinance student loans and provide students and families with additional information to increase financial literacy.
- Expand access to worker training programs and end waitlists for high-demand programs.
- Make tuition at Wisconsin's public colleges and universities affordable.
- Reinvest in the UW and Technical College systems and increase need-based financial aid to reduce the financial burden of higher education on Wisconsin families.
- Attract and retain distinguished faculty and researchers at Wisconsin's world-class higher education institutions.

### **Embrace innovation and expand opportunities for entrepreneurs.**

- Boost incomes and encourage the growth of Wisconsin's high-tech, knowledge-based economy.
- Ensure every Wisconsin student leaves school prepared for a job by creating multiple paths to higher education, including expanding career, technical, and apprenticeships opportunities.

### **Foster an economy that ensures financial security for every Wisconsin resident.**

- Ensure Wisconsin veterans have access to an education, job opportunities, and quality health care.
- Make SeniorCare permanent and protect our seniors by increasing access to affordable prescription drugs.
- Provide retirement security through low-cost retirement plans with strong investment returns.

### **Protect Wisconsin's reputation of clean, open, and accountable government.**

- Eliminate corporate campaign spending, limit the influence of special interests, and prevent politicians from exploiting loopholes in campaign finance regulations.
- Reform campaign spending by promoting public disclosure, donation limits, and spending caps.
- Ensure government accountability by restoring the nonpartisan ethics and elections watchdog agency.
- Increase government transparency by protecting access to open records and meetings.

### **Defend the right to vote and ensure fair elections through independent redistricting.**

- Safeguard the right to vote for all eligible Wisconsin electors.
- End restrictive and discriminatory requirements that prevent Wisconsin citizens from voting
- Modernize voting to make it more convenient, efficient, and transparent.
- Increase public oversight and reform our system of redistricting to make it independent and nonpartisan.

### Community: Strengthen Our Communities and Families



#### **Safeguard affordable healthcare and protect families from losing coverage.**

- Expand affordable access to dependable and comprehensive health services for Wisconsin's men, women, and children.
- Reduce disparities, lower costs, and ensure equal access to health services in rural and urban communities.
- Ensure families working to make ends meet have access to quality healthcare by expanding BadgerCare.
- Protect the 224,000 Wisconsin residents who have Affordable Care Act marketplace coverage and fight to secure its promise for generations to come.
- Guarantee women have the freedom to make personal health decisions without political interference.

#### **Support healthy, sustainable communities by making it easier to raise and care for a family.**

- Improve maternity and paternity leave coverage in the workplace and cut the cost of child care.
- Guarantee paid family and medical leave rights for those who care for a seriously ill loved one or who become seriously ill themselves.
- Allow people to earn paid sick days based on the hours they work.
- Create pathways to stable employment so that low-income families can escape the cycle of poverty.
- Invest in communities struggling with high unemployment and limited opportunities.

**Target resources and develop community partnerships to ensure every neighborhood is a safe place to live.**

- Expand economic opportunities for at-risk youth and communities with high unemployment.
- Prohibit discriminatory hiring and housing practices that make re-incarceration more likely.
- Replace Wisconsin's outdated juvenile justice system with smarter policies and community-based facilities around the state.
- Encourage alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders, such as courts for drug diversion, veterans, and mental health; day-report centers; and universal screening.
- Tackle Wisconsin's epidemic-levels of opioid and methamphetamine use in our rural, urban, and suburban communities.
- Implement universal background checks and stop suspects on the terror watch list from buying weapons.
- Ensure that survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect by improving criminal justice proceedings, hospital-based care, and school and campus responses.
- Boost communities by providing student loan incentives for individuals who work in underserved areas after graduation.



**Protect Wisconsin communities by ensuring access to abundant clean drinking water, public lands, and outdoor recreation.**

- Keep Wisconsin air and water clean by ensuring unbiased, common-sense approaches that allow for businesses to grow and communities to thrive.
- Recognize the health and economic threats posed by man-made climate change and promote sustainable conservation efforts.
- Protect safe drinking water by properly managing our water resources.
- Assist homeowners, schools, and communities with the planning and resources needed to replace contaminated lead pipes.
- Safeguard Wisconsin's public lands and outdoor and sporting heritage by promoting public access and properly funding our world-renowned state parks for current and future generations to enjoy.
- Encourage tourism growth by protecting Wisconsin's unique outdoor recreational opportunities.

**Restore local control so communities can decide how to best spend local tax dollars and grow the economy.**

- Restore communities' ability to promote responsible development and manage local zoning decisions.
- Encourage cost-effective local partnerships and innovative approaches to delivering services.
- Repeal unfunded mandates that restrict local control and prevent communities from adopting responsible pro-growth policies.